

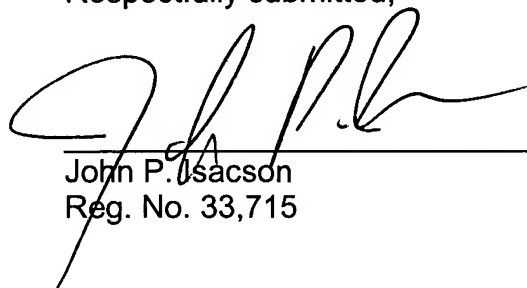
**REMARKS**

Applicants have canceled claims 1-123 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicants have added claims 124-127, which are copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,316,158 to Saum *et al.*, which issued November 13, 2001 (copy enclosed). Claims 124-127 correspond respectively to claims 1-3 and 25 of the '158 patent. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 124-127 will be pending.

By filing this preliminary amendment, applicants have fully complied with the requirements of 35 USC § 135(b)(1). These claims have been pending in U.S. Application Serial Nos. 09/764,445 and 10/197,209.

A first office action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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October 30, 2003

Date

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